

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /073 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5947

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LONDON 16479

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, ET, BH, UK, UN

SUBJECT: BELIZE

1. SUBJECT OF BELIZE RAISED BY FONSEC CALLAGHAN DURING CALL BY SONNENFELDT, CHARGE, ON OCTOBER 27. CALLAGHAN EXPRESSED CONTINUED INTEREST IN US ASSISTANCE IN "RE-STRAINING" GUATEMALANS AND IN US VIEWS ON HOW BEST BRITISH COULD ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE OF BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT INCURRING A WAR IN PROCESS. CALLAGHAN SAID HE WAS NOT READY TO LET BELIZE ISSUE "DRAG ON INDEFINITELY," ALTHOUGH HE IS PREPARED TO PLAY IT OUT OVER NEXT 9-10 MONTHS. HOWEVER, HE WAS DETERMINED TO HAVE THE ISSUE PUT TO REST BEFORE NEXT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE WAS NOT GOING TO DIE AWAY IN BELIZE AND BRITISH WERE EQUALLY DETERMINED.

2. CALLAGHAN NOTED THAT IVOR RICHARD, UK PERMREP TO UN, HAD GONE TO GUATEMALA TO DISCUSS RESOLUTION GUATEMALANS COULD ACCEPT AS "NON-HUMILIATING." HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY REPORTS FROM RICHARD BUT HOPED SOMETHING COULD BE WORKED OUT THAT WOULD GET THEM THROUGH THE UN, AFTER WHICH THE BRITISH AND GUATEMALANS COULD CONDUCT TALKS

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WHICH PERHAPS WOULD LEAD TO "SOME KIND OF NON-AGGRESSION

PACT." CALLAGHAN REITERATED, HOWEVER, THAT GUATEMALANS HAVE TO ACCEPT SELF-DETERMINATION PRINCIPLE. HE DID NOT THINK GUATEMALANS WOULD GET MUCH SUPPORT FROM LATIN AMERICA "AT THE END OF THE DAY." HE HAD RECENTLY HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH BRAZILIANS AND VENEZUELAN, WHOM HE THOUGHT WOULD TEMPER THEIR SUPPORT OF GUATEMALAN POSITION AFTER UN. MEXICO WAS STILL A PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH THEIR FONMIN WAS CONTRADICTING POSITION TAKEN BY PRESIDENT.

3. CALLAGHAN SAID THAT HE WAS UNDETERRED BY CHARGES OF AGGRESSIVE BRITISH BEHAVIOR EMANATING FROM GUATEMALA CITY IN RESPONSE TO RECENT MINIMAL TROOP REINFORCEMENTS. HE SAID BRITISH WILL NOT LET GUATEMALANS "OVERRUN" BELIZE, AND, IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST, UK MOD HAD NOW WORKED OUT ARRANGEMENTS WHEREBY BRITISH TROOPS COULD BE GOTTEN TO BELIZE WITHIN 24 HOURS.

4. PATRICK DUFF, HEAD OF FCO WEST INDIAN DEPARTMENT, IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER, CONFIRMED CALLAGHAN'S PREOCCUPATION WITH BELIZEAN MATTERS. DUFF SAID THE FONMIN ESPECIALLY WANTS THE US TO USE ITS INFLUENCE IN RESTRAINING GUATEMALAN MILITARY ADVENTURISM IN THE WAKE OF AN UNFAVORABLE UN RESOLUTION. HE ALSO EXPLAINED THE UK DOES NOT REGARD THEIR UN DRAFT RESOLUTION AS BOUND IN IRON, ALTHOUGH 50 TO 60 NATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO SIGN UP AS CO-SPONSORS. THE RESOLUTION CAN BE ALTERED OR MODIFIED IN THE COURSE OF THE UN DEBATE, DUFF SAID, AND CALLAGHAN STRONGLY HOPES THE END RESULT WILL BE A DECLARATION WHICH THE US CAN SUPPORT.

5. DUFF ALSO CONFIRMED THAT UK PERMREP RICHARD HAD VISITED GUATEMALA OCTOBER 26-27. RICHARD HAD SIX HOURS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH FONMIN MOLINA, BOTH PRIVATELY AND IN A WIDER CONTEXT. THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS WERE INCONCLUSIVE WITH THE GUATEMALANS CONTINUING TO INSIST THAT THE DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS UNACCEPTABLE. RICHARD'S VISIT AT LEAST SERVED THE PURPOSE OF CLEARING SOME OF THE AIR IN THE GAP BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND THE UK, AND GUATEMALA NOW HAS A BETTER SENSE OF THE BRITISH POSITION. DUFF SAID THE UK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO

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BRIEF DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON RICHARD'S MISSION.

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Message Attributes

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